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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
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**Medical Officer of Health**

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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

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*Medical Officer of Health:*

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector:*

F. E. SMALE, C.R. SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

*Health Visitor:*

W. G. WICKS, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.SAN.I.

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**STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1946.**

Area: 2,503 acres.

Population: 7,020 (estimated mid-year 1946); 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses: 2,288.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £215.

Rateable Value: £51,737.

General Rate: 15/6 in the £.

Birth Rate: 17.3.

Death Rate: 14.3.

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births: 49.1.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea: Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 2.

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases: 1.

Tuberculosis Death Rate—Pulmonary: 0.28.

Tuberculosis Death Rate—Non-Pulmonary: 0.14.

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT  
FOR 1946.**

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Tettenhall  
Urban District Council.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report for 1946 and such is submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 13/47.

The Report deals with—

- (a) Vital Statistics as affecting the Area.
- (b) General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
- (c) Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- (d) Housing.
- (e) Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

It concludes with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector on those matters which fall within his sphere of activities in relation to safeguarding the health of the community.

The Birth Rate for the year again shows a slight decrease on last year, being 17.3 against 18.3, and is lower than the rate of England and Wales, which is 19.1.

The Death Rate of 14.3 is considerably higher than that of last year when it was 10.5 and also higher than that of the country as a whole, 11.5. This comparatively higher death rate is attributable to the large number of deaths which occurred above sixty years of age, viz:—66 out of a total of 99. Placing them in age-groups we find the following distribution:—

61—70 years	...	...	...	23
71—80 years	...	...	...	25
81 to 90 years	...	...	...	17
91 and over	...	...	...	1

This would indicate that a considerable number of the residents are elderly and retired and that it so happened this particular year that the number of them amongst whom death was to be expected at any time was high. The highest numbers of deaths during the year were attributable to Heart Disease 30, Cancer 16, which is consistent with my remarks as to the age composition of the district population.

Infantile Mortality Rate indicates the number per 1,000 births of children who died before reaching the age of one year, and here the rate would appear high, 49.1 compared with the rate of England and Wales as a whole, which was 43. The actual number of deaths under one year of age was 6 as against 4 last year.

This comparatively high figure, 49.1, may be, by calculation, correct in respect of the 6 deaths which occurred, but of those deaths two were inevitable from the moment of birth by the very nature of their cause, congenital defects, and were therefore unavoidable. Taking that into consideration the rate would be really only 32.8, a more welcome figure. It does not follow that the other 4 could have been prevented, one might, and that would have reduced the rate still further. The rate for the district would appear to oscillate strongly from year to year. A comparative table and causes of death are given on a succeeding page.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 3 against 5 last year, and the number of deaths 2 as against 4, giving a death rate of 0.28 as against 0.44 in 1945. Such reductions one is happy to record.

I make a few observations on some of the subjects to which your Health Committee gave consideration in the course of the year.

During the year a Health Education Week was undertaken, but the response of the public to the invitation to attend an exhibition of Films and Lectures on the subject was very disappointing in respect of adult attendance. There was a good turn-out of school children. The series of Films shown by the Council for Health Education was most instructive and interestingly presented, and the apathy of the public to such instruction is regrettable.

In continuance of the remarks I made on Housing in my report of 1945, I make the following observations for your guidance as to policy:—

Consideration of housing conditions forms one of the most important sections of the work of a Health Department, and a number of situations arise from time to time which can only be solved by the active co-operation of the Housing Committee with the Health Committee.

Fifty years ago a large proportion of the population was content to put up with the lack of certain modern conveniences because only the more affluent could enjoy them. During the years that have elapsed this less fortunate section of the community has steadily declined as more up-to-date houses have been built. In the next few years it will decline still further and a new generation is arising which will expect and demand higher standards of housing amenities and living conditions. The time is coming soon when the tenant of the "old house" will see many of his friends in new houses and he will demand the same standards for himself.

In Tettenhall there are quite a number of houses which could be described as unfit houses. Although we are not so bad as a number of neighbouring districts in this respect, this is no reason for complacency and resting on our more fortunate position. The question is what is to be done with these houses, and I also ask this question on account of the laudable desire to preserve the old and picturesque architectural features of parts of Tettenhall.

Personally I am strongly of the opinion that condemnation of houses that are without question unfit for habitation, should proceed. If nothing is done, generally on the grounds of not reducing the available housing accommodation of the district, the tenant and his family inevitably suffer. If it should so happen that some of them do manage to qualify on our points system for a new house, the landlord may immediately re-let the old and unfit house, and the new tenant will very soon be added to your application list on account of the conditions under which he is living.

The only rational course to adopt is therefore in my opinion to go in for a gradual policy of condemning the really unfit house and not allow sentimental reasons of old-world appearance to weigh too heavily in favour of preservation to the detriment of the long-suffering tenant.

When consideration is being given to the making of a demolition order, the owner will frequently offer to give an undertaking to make the house fit and habitable; rarely have I ever yet found this to give complete satisfaction. A really unfit house is one which cannot be repaired, and the first person to regret the undertaking is usually the owner himself, who soon finds that the cost is much more than he anticipated, that the final result is far from satisfactory, and in a few years the house is again ready for demolition. It cannot be too often stressed that it is disastrous to try and repair such a house—disastrous alike to the Local Authority, the owner and the tenant.

As regards progress made in the erection of new houses and in respect of building programme for the coming year I consider your Council is deserving of the highest commendation.

At intervals throughout the year consideration was given to the question of establishing a "Home" and "Domestic Help" service.

Representatives of the various women's organisations in the district were conferred with as to sources of available woman-power.

During the year no household in need of such assistance has been brought to notice nor requests for such help made. It is felt that the "friendly neighbour" may be the answer in many cases as many households are averse to complete strangers coming in; but this does not remove the fact that cases might occur where appeals might be made for help by stricken households or by the medical practitioner in attendance or by others once it was known that such a service existed.

It is therefore hoped to evolve a scheme in the course of the coming year with the co-operation of the British Legion (Women's Branch), the Women's Voluntary Service, and the British Red Cross Society.

The willingness of those women's services to co-operate with your Council in surmounting the women-power difficulty is much appreciated.

In respect of Nursing Assistance to householders in case of epidemics, as apart from Home and Domestic Help, the Commandant, Local Detachment, British Red Cross Society, informs me she has a team of seven Civil Nursing Reserve Members, of which number two could be available daily. It is gratifying to know that the B.R.C.S. is even now giving Nursing assistance to the District Nurses when necessary, twenty cases having been attended in the course of the year. A Medical Comforts Loan Depot has also been set up which is doing much to alleviate invalidism and make illness tolerable.

To implement the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 70/45 in respect of the provision of Ambulance Services, an arrangement on a contributory basis was made with the County Borough of Wolverhampton to provide such service. All other possibilities were explored and it is hoped that this solution will prove the most economical and efficient one.

Again I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees, and to thank the local medical practitioners for their continued co-operation.

I am glad to have this yearly opportunity of thanking your Clerk for his helpful guidance and advice on points which have arisen from time to time. I would also record my appreciation and thanks for the efficient services of your Sanitary Inspector and for his willing and ungrudging personal help to me. I am also indebted to your Surveyor for his helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE,

October, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	117	53	64	Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 17.3.
Legitimate				
Illegitimate	5	4	1	

Still Births	2	2	—	Rate (per 1,000 total births) 24.6
Legitimate				
Illegitimate	1	1	—	

Deaths	...	...	101	Rate (per 1,000 population) 14.3.
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----------------------------------

Deaths from Puerperal Causes: Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):

Legitimate	...	49.1
Illegitimate	...	0.0

Deaths from Cancer: 16.

„ „ Measles (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages): 1.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age): Nil.

**BIRTH RATES.**

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1937	96	14.4	14.9
1938	87	12.9	15.1
1939	109	16.3	15.0
1940	112	16.2	14.6
1941	112	15.3	14.2
1942	118	17.0	15.8
1943	131	19.2	16.5
1944	135	19.7	17.6
1945	124	18.3	16.1
1946	122	17.3	19.1

**DEATH RATES.**

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Death Rate.
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	
1937	70	10.5	12.4
1938	81	12.0	11.6
1939	68	10.2	12.1
1940	87	12.6	14.3
1941	89	12.2	12.9
1942	71	10.2	11.6
1943	76	11.2	12.1
1944	67	9.8	11.6
1945	71	10.5	11.4
1946	101	14.3	11.5

### CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1946.

<b>Causes of Death.</b>					<b>M.</b>	<b>F.</b>
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	—	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	1	—
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	—	—	—
9	Influenza	...	...	—	—	—
10	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	—	—	—	—
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	—	—	1
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Males) and Uterus (Females)	...	—	—	—	—
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	2	2	—
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	—	3	—
16	Cancer of all other sites ..	...	...	6	3	—
17	Diabetes	...	...	—	—	—
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	4	5	—
19	Heart Disease	...	...	14	16	—
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	—	—	2	—
21	Bronchitis	...	...	—	3	4
22	Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	2
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	—	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	1	—	—
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	—	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	—	1	3
28	Nephritis	...	...	—	1	3
29	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	—	—	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	—	—	—
31	Premature Birth	...	...	—	2	—
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	...	...	—	1	1
33	Suicide	...	...	—	1	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	—	1	1
35	Other Violent Causes	...	...	—	1	1
36	All Other Causes	...	...	—	7	4
					Total	47 54
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—					Total	4 2
					Legitimate	4 2
					Illegitimate	— —

**INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1946.**

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under one week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total Deaths under one year.
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformation and Infantile Disease ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ...	4	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	6

**INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.**

Year	TETTENHALL			England and Wales.
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Rate per 1,000 births
1937	96	2	20.8	58
1938	87	3	34.5	53
1939	109	2	18.3	50
1940	112	5	44.6	55
1941	112	4	34.0	59
1942	118	2	17.0	49
1943	131	4	30.5	49
1944	135	2	14.8	46
1945	124	4	32.2	46
1946	122	6	49.1	43

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

Provision for admission and treatment of such cases is made with the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board and accommodation would appear to be sufficient, no difficulty having been experienced in getting cases admitted.

### **Small Pox.**

Arrangements for isolation and treatment are provided by the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board.

### **Tuberculosis.**

Treatment is administered by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis, Dispensaries being situate at Dudley and Wolverhampton and various Sanatoria are available.

### **Venereal Diseases.**

Facilities for treatment are provided under the County Council scheme.

### **Maternity.**

Under County arrangements Maternity Units are available at the Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home, Sedgley, and at Wordsley.

### **Midwives, Anti-Natal Clinics and Child Welfare.**

The supervising and administering Authority is the County Council.

### **General Hospitals.**

All such are situate outside the Urban District. They are the voluntary hospitals of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham. They are easily accessible and the facilities afforded are made full use of.

### **Ambulance Service.**

Arrangements have been made with the Wolverhampton Corporation to provide a service in respect of medical and surgical cases and street accidents.

Maternity cases are dealt with under County Council arrangements.

Cases of infectious disease are removed by ambulance of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and Chemical analyses are made at the respective County Laboratories. The facilities so provided are in constant use by the local medical practitioners.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water Supply.**

Tettenhall Urban District is within the statutory limits of supply of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking. The sources of supply are deep bore-holes and wells in the bunter beds of the New Red sandstone at Tettenhall, Cosford and Dimmingsdale, and the River Worfe at Cosford.

The borehole supplies are of great natural purity but the river supply is treated in new purification works (set to work in 1941) where it is subjected to coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration. All the supplies are chlorinated.

I am indebted to Mr. B. L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., Water Engineer, Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, for the following report:—

“The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Undertaking is a mixture of waters from a number of sources of supply, and is supplied into the Tettenhall Urban District in various proportions according to the part of the district and varying circumstances obtaining from time to time. The number of analyses of treated water going into supply are taken at various convenient points, some at the works and some from the distribution system, and these are representative of water being supplied into Tettenhall Urban District. These figures are for the 12 months 1st January to 31st December, 1946:—

- (1) The supply of water to the Tettenhall area has been satisfactory both (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.
  - (2) Bacteriological examinations are made of raw water and, where treatment is necessary, of the water going into supply and in the distribution system. The following is a table of the number of bacteriological and chemical analyses made—
- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | The number of Bacteriological Analyses made of raw water before treatment ... ... ... ...         | 54  |
|     | The number of Chemical Analyses made of raw water before treatment ... ... ... ...                | 7   |
| (b) | Number of Bacteriological Analyses made of water going into supply and in distribution system ... | 284 |
|     | Number of Chemical Analyses made of water going into supply and in distribution system ... ...    | 39  |

The figures under Section (b) include 104 Bacteriological Analyses and 2 Chemical analyses of water going into supply, where treatment was not necessary.

With regard to results of bacteriological analyses of the 284 samples of water going into supply and in the distribution system under (b) above, 269 were found to be entirely free from presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes*, and only 14 showed presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes* in the Ministry of Health Group not exceeding 1—2 per 100 ml. and only one sample showed presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes* in the Ministry of Health Group not exceeding 3—10 presumptive *B. coli-aerogenes* per 100 ml.

On further examination of these samples showing *B. coli-aerogenes* for types none was found to contain any faecal coli. With regard to the results of Chemical Analyses, 3 copies of Chemical Reports are given of samples taken in November, 1946, at three separate points, one at the Wergs and two in Wolverhampton, which are also representative of water supplied into Tettenhall Urban District, and are typical of the results obtained of water in the distribution system.

- (3) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (4) Subsequent to treatment where necessary at the supply works there has been no known contamination of the water going into supply.
- (5) There are only two wells in the area from which domestic water supply is obtained. Of the houses in the district only eleven obtain their water from yard standpipes, the remainder have a direct supply to the house or to the wash-house.

**Sample 37/46. Wolverhampton.**

<b>Water Analysis.</b>	Parts per 100,000.				
<b>Chemical Analysis.</b>	19th November, 1946.				
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.0014
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.0048
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	...	...	...	...	3.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ...	...	...	...	...	0.18
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F in 4 hours ...	...	...	...	...	0.060
Total Solids dried at 100°C. ...	...	...	...	...	40.
Appearance ...	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles.	
Hardness { Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Permanent ...	...	...	...	...	10.8
Total ...	...	...	...	...	21.2
Metals ...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	0.008
pH value ...	...	...	...	...	7.47

**Sample W36/46. Finchfield.**

<b>Water Analysis.</b>	Parts per 100,000				
<b>Chemical Analysis.</b>	12th November, 1946.				
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	...	...	...	...	7.4
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ...	...	...	...	...	Trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours ...	...	...	...	...	0.002
Total Solids dried at 100°C. ...	...	...	...	...	42.
Appearance ...	...	...	...	Bright and Clear.	
Hardness { Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	10.8
Permanent ...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Total ...	...	...	...	...	23.2
Metals ...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	Absent
pH value ...	...	...	...	...	7.44

**Sample 35/46. Tettenhall.**

<b>Water Analysis.</b>	Parts per 100,000				
<b>Chemical Analysis.</b>	5th November, 1946.				
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.0040
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	0.0040
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	...	...	...	...	3.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ...	...	...	...	...	0.12
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours ...	...	...	...	...	0.049
Appearance ...	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles.	
Hardness { Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	10.0
Permanent ...	...	...	...	...	11.6
Total ...	...	...	...	...	21.6
Metals ...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	0.02
pH value ...	...	...	...	...	7.40

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. J. W. Mason, M.I.Mun.E., for the following report:—

**Castlecroft Sewerage.**

A start was made on the laying of the new sewers in the Windmill Lane and Castlecroft Road Area, but due to labour difficulties, progress during the year has been slow and at the 31st December, 1946, out of a total of 2,071 lineal yards, 1,600 lineal yards of sewer had been laid.

**Blackbrook Sewage Farm.**

The farm has been maintained in good condition during the past year although difficulty was again experienced in disposing of the accumulation of sludge. Samples of water have been submitted regularly to the County Analyst for report and the results have been reported to the monthly meeting of the Highways and Drainage Committee.

**Public Cleansing.**

The regular collection of house refuse has been maintained to all houses in the area, alternating fortnightly with the collection of salvage.

The tip on Boots land at Compton has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

**HOUSING.****Individual Unfit Houses.**

During the year demolition orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of 7 houses.

A good definition of an unfit house is "one that cannot be brought up to a reasonable standard by any means whatsoever." This would include houses where the structure has deteriorated so badly that no repairs would be of any avail; houses showing a serious state of dampness—impossible to remedy in old houses; houses without proper and sufficient sanitary accommodation and

where it is impossible to provide same; old property with inadequate lighting and ventilation, usually accompanied by bad design; and houses in such an advanced stage of disrepair that the cost of reconstruction would be out of all proportion to the value of the property, and most of the houses in this last category will have several of those serious defects above mentioned.

Your Surveyor (Mr. J. W. Mason) has kindly furnished me with the following report:—

#### **House Building Progress—Long Lake Housing Estate.**

A start was made on the erection of permanent houses at the Long Lake site, the roads and sewers of which had been laid down in 1945. The first contract of thirty houses was let to Messrs. A. M. Griffiths & Son, and on the 31st December, 1946, sixteen houses had been completed.

The type of permanent houses erected on this site are three bedrooms, living room with dining recess, kitchen, bathroom and usual out offices. The overall floor area of each house is approximately 1,000 square feet, which is a considerable increase on those houses erected immediately prior to the war.

#### **Temporary Houses.**

During the year 36 Arcon type temporary houses were completed at Henwood Road.

#### **Private Enterprise Housing.**

In addition to the Council's Housing Programme a start has been made on the erection of houses by private enterprise, and several of these were actively under construction during the year.

#### **Conversion of Existing Properties into Flats.**

During the year a number of large houses have been converted into flats. The Council has also converted the "New Inn," Lower Street, into three flats. These conversions have proved to be a valuable supplement to the general housing programme in the area.

The following schedule indicates the general housing progress during 1946:—

##### **Council Housing—**

Permanent houses, Long Lake—completed	...	16
Temporary houses, Henwood Road	„	36
Conversion of "New Inn," Lower St.	„	3 Flats.
Private Enterprise housing	„	10
Conversions—large houses to flats	„	9
Rebuilding war-damaged houses	„	1
		—
		75

I am indebted to your Housing Manager (Mr. W. A. Nicholls) for the following report:—

The points system adopted by the Council for the allocation of houses has not been used to determine the final order in which houses are allocated but has proved useful in grading applications into priority cases for investigation. Before houses are allocated,

the actual conditions under which the applicant is living are personally investigated by the Sanitary Inspector or the Housing Manager so that the Housing Committee have the fullest information available when considering allocation of tenancies.

During the year under review 36 Prefabricated Bungalows, 13 Permanent Houses and 3 Flats have been allocated to applicants.

The number of applications to date is 499, but of these there are 257 from applicants living out of the Urban District and having no connection with Tettenhall. The remaining 242 applications are made up as follows:—

(a)	Childless couples	...	...	...	101
(b)	Husband, wife and 1 child			...	108
(c)	„ „ „	2 children		...	28
(d)	„ „ „	3 children		...	5

Some of the cases dealt with have not been able to afford the cost of houses now being built, and in order to provide cheaper rented houses the Council have encouraged voluntary transference of tenants from their old estates to the new.

### **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The number of notified cases of infectious diseases shows a 50 per cent. decrease over last year, only 63 cases against 119. Of the 63 cases notified 43 were whooping cough.

#### **Measles.**

Only 6 cases were notified compared with 88 for 1945. There were no deaths.

#### **Whooping Cough.**

There was an increase in the number of cases of this disease from 11 in 1945 to 43 in this year.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

Five cases were notified. All were isolated at home except one. There were no deaths.

#### **Diphtheria.**

One case was notified and removed to hospital. The patient, a youth, had not been immunised. There were no cases in 1945.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are always available by arrangement with a Wolverhampton Chemist.

#### **Typhoid Fever.**

There was one case which was removed to hospital and died there. The patient was a man aged 62. From the history of the case it would appear to have been insidious, obscure and atypical in its onset and early stages. After a thorough investigation no source of infection was traced.

#### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

One case notified. No deaths.

#### **Admissions to Hospital.**

Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 1, Typhoid Fever 1, Bronchopneumonia 1.

**Age Groups of Infectious Cases (excluding Tuberculosis)  
Notified in 1946.**

Disease	At all ages		Under 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
	M	F											
Scarlet Fever ...	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	27	5	5	7	6	9	9	1	-	1	1	-
Measles ...	4	2	-	1	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
Erysipelas ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Typhoid Fever ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	 

### Scabies.

The prevalence of this disease still remains slight and necessitates the provision of no special cleansing facilities, all cases being effectively dealt with privately.

### Swabs and Specimens.

Submitted to the County Laboratory by local practitioners:—  
Nose and Throat - - - 20

### General Measures.

In the summer months of the year special attention was given to the standard of cleanliness of Ice-Cream. As far as is known there would appear to have been no incidence of indisposition or actual illness in the district attributable to ice-cream, but that cannot acquit it of possibilities in view of the presence of bacteria of an undesirable nature in some samples. In the absence of specified bacteriological standards of cleanliness, action was confined to that of an advisory nature and appropriate steps were taken at all levels to ensure a satisfactory standard of cleanliness in the product.

The advent of the draft Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1946 as a step towards better protection of the public health against infection from the consumption of ice-cream is welcomed.

School notifications of Infectious Disease are carefully scrutinised and prompt use made of them for the purpose of guidance and localisation.

A close study is also made of the Ministry's Weekly Record of Infectious Diseases for any information that may be relative to the district.

The Schools are disinfected every holiday and when considered desirable.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out in all cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde and disinfectant fluid.

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

During the year 165 children received protective treatment.

#### **Number of Children who have completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.**

Age at 31/12/46	...	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total
i.e. Born in year	...	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937 to 1941	1932 to 1936	Under 15
Number immunised	...	15	65	105	87	70	372	384	1,098
Estimated mid-year child population 1946		520					880		1,400

This would indicate that 66% of children under 5 years of age have received protective treatment and 86% of children over 5 years and under 15 years of age.

In terms of total child population under 15 years of age this would mean that 78% have received protective treatment. This percentage may possibly be slightly higher if those children who have been done by their own doctor under private arrangement are taken into account, but no statistical figures in this respect for the period under review are available.



### Yearly Figures for the Last Decade.

Year.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1937	6	1	2	—
1938	6	2	2	—
1939	4	—	4	—
1940	2	5	4	1
1941	3	1	2	1
1942	6	—	3	—
1943	2	—	1	—
1944	2	—	2	—
1945	5	4	4	1
1946	3	2	2	1

### ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Details of inspections of dwelling houses and other premises including food premises will be found in succeeding paragraphs of the report.

The year 1946 brought no improvement in getting repairs carried out to dwelling houses. The policy of the Ministry of Health in concentrating as much building material and labour in the building of new houses is to be commended, but more houses are gradually deteriorating through lack of maintenance, and it is now only possible to get very urgent repair work carried out to existing houses.

In spite of this, the essential sanitary services were maintained during the year.

#### Rodent Control.

A new part-time Rodent Operator was appointed in February and the Council were once again able to carry out rodent work efficiently.

In June the Council accepted the Ministry of Food's offer under the Private Dwellings Special Scheme for the financial year, 1946/47. Under this scheme private dwellings were treated free to the occupiers, the Ministry bearing 60% of the cost and the

Local Authority 40%. This scheme had the effect of enticing occupiers to report the presence of rats on their premises. For the purpose of the scheme the area was divided into sections and part of each section surveyed, followed by the appropriate treatment. During the year under review 113 treatments of dwelling houses and 6 business premises (shops) resulted in a kill of approximately 879 rats.

In addition the Council's own tip was treated twice and approximately 322 rats killed by poison, whilst another treatment was carried out by "spoon" gassing, all with such good results that the infestation is now only a minor one and is subject to inspection periodically.

The Council's sewerage works were treated twice and a kill of 161 rats recorded.

Treatments of 5 other types of premises including a military camp, farm buildings and a brook were carried out with an estimated kill of 177 rats.

The Special Private Dwellings Scheme was still in operation at the end of the year. A grand total of 1,539 was recorded.

It can be said that the year has been a highly successful one as far as rodent destruction is concerned, but further efforts in 1947 will be necessary particularly at farm premises.

#### **Shops.**

The Council is the responsible authority for all provisions of the Shops Acts 1912—38, the closing provisions being delegated powers from the Staffordshire County Council, and your Sanitary Inspector is the Shops Acts Inspector.

During the year one shopkeeper was warned for keeping the shop open after the general closing hours. No other contraventions of the Acts were found in 13 visits.

#### **Vermin.**

No premises were found infested and the district can be said to be fairly free from vermin.

#### **Sanitary Accommodation.**

The numbers of various types of accommodation at the end of 1946 were as follows:—

W.C's—Approximate number	-	-	3,000
W.W.C's—Approximate number	-	-	200
Privies or Pail Closets	-	-	27
Cesspools—Approximate number	-	-	145
Ashpits	-	-	None

The new sewer in Castlecroft Road and Windmill Lane now in course of construction will reduce the number of cesspools to approximately 80 and houses not connected to sewer to 107.

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

#### **(a) Milk Supply.**

The following summary shows the number of registered purveyors and producers of milk on the 31st December 1946:—

Number of Registered Producers ... ... ...	10
,, „ „ Wholesale Purveyors ... ... ...	4
,, „ „ Retail Purveyors of—	
(a) loose and/or bottled milk	15
(b) bottled milk from shops or rounds ... ... ...	19
Number of Cowkeepers ... ... ... ...	10
,, „ Registered Dairy Premises ... ... ...	13
,, „ Inspections of Cowsheds ... ... ...	33
,, „ Inspections of Dairies and Milkshops ...	39

The cowsheds have been maintained in a clean condition during the year and no accumulations of manure calling for warning letters were found.

In the case of one retailer of loose milk action was taken regarding the unsatisfactory personal cleanliness of the roundsman. After correspondence the person concerned, a youth, was taken off the round and a man substituted.

No other action under the statutes was necessary.

#### (b) Meat and Other Foods.

Licence in respect of the four private slaughterhouses continue to be granted or renewed every six months under the same conditions as when the licences were first issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The meat supply of the district is still obtained from the Wolverhampton Abattoir and whilst few complaints are received as to its quality there is no doubt that the transport and distribution arrangements are far from satisfactory. The conditions under which meat and offal are transported must have an effect on its keeping quality especially during summer.

During the year 67 inspections of shops for the purpose of meat and food inspection were made.

The following articles of food were surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

15 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lbs. Ham.  
70 packets of Biscuits  
4 tins of various foods.

No statutory action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was necessary.

#### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There were five slaughterman's licences in force at the 31st December, 1946.

#### (c) Adulteration, Etc.

The County Council is the responsible Authority.

#### (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food.

The County Council is the responsible Authority.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. R. Thompson, Senior District Inspector, for the following report:—

#### Details of Samples of Milk and General Foods taken during 1946.

Article of Food.	Number of Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk ... ...	30	28	2
General Foods ...	13	13	—

One sample of milk was 14.7% deficient in fat and one sample contained 4.7% added water. The former sample was from mornings milking. A sample of the evening's milk from the same cows was very high in fat and the deficiency was due to the uneven milking hours.

The sample containing 4.7% added water was a bottle of sterilized milk. Further samples taken at the dairy showed the watered milk was being supplied by a local farmer against whom proceedings were taken by the Wolverhampton Corporation. The farmer was convicted and fined.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

The following table gives details of samples of milk taken in this district during the year and submitted to either bacteriological and/or biological examination:—

Designation.	No. of samples submitted	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase.		T.B.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Passed	Failed	
Non-designated	32	28	4	—	—	2
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised ...	1	1	—	1	—	—

Ten samples of non-designated, 1 tuberculin tested and 1 pasteurised were not submitted to the biological test.

Again the figures show that a steady improvement has been maintained regarding the cleanliness. Only 12½% of non-designated samples were unsatisfactory as against 17% last year. Out of a total of 34 samples (all designations) submitted only 11.7% were unsatisfactory as compared with 17% last year.

In 1942 the percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 62. It will be seen, therefore, that a steady improvement has taken place. It is not so pleasing to have to report that 2 samples of non-designated milk were found to contain tubercle bacilli. It is three years since a positive T.B. result was recorded in samples from this area and the fact that the germ was found in non-designated milk would appear to show the necessity for pasteurising all milk.

### **MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936—46.**

The following table gives details of licences in force on 31st December, 1946:—

Designation of Milk.	Producer.	Dealer.	Supple- mentary Licenses.	TOTAL
Tuberculin Tested ... ...	—	1	5	6
Accredited ... ...	1	1	2	4
Pasteurised ... ...	—	—	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>15</b>

The figures show a welcome increase on last year. Two additional supplementary T.T. licences, one pasteurised and one dealer's retailing licence were issued.

No contraventions of the Orders were found.

Details of the numbers of inspections of registered premises will be found in a preceding paragraph.

### GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.

Details of the inspection work carried out during the year are given in the following table:—

#### Summary of Routine Inspection Work of Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES INSPECTED.					No. of Inspections
COWSHEDS ...	...	...	...	...	33
DAIRIES, Etc.	...	...	...	...	39
BAKEHOUSES	...	...	...	...	12
BUTCHERS' SHOPS ...	...	...	...	...	56
SLAUGHTERHOUSES	...	...	...	...	2
FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES	...	...	...	...	3
ICE-CREAM PREMISES	...	...	...	...	21
FACTORIES	...	...	...	...	28
SHOPS	...	...	...	...	13
SCHOOLS	...	...	...	...	2
STABLES AND PIGGERIES ...	...	...	...	...	6
Re DRAINAGE	...	...	...	...	103
Re DUSTBINS AND REFUSE DISPOSAL	...	...	...	...	188
Re RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION	...	...	...	...	199
Re INFECTIOUS DISEASES ...	...	...	...	...	42
MISCELLANEOUS SANITARY VISITS	...	...	...	...	16
MISCELLANEOUS OTHER VISITS ...	...	...	...	...	52
MISCELLANEOUS FOOD VISITS ...	...	...	...	...	14
EVACUATION ENQUIRIES AND VISITS	...	...	...	...	14
<b>DWELLING HOUSES :</b>					
UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	...	...	...	...	149
Re INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	...	...	...	...	274
UNDER HOUSING ACTS	...	...	...	...	16
Re OVERCROWDING	...	...	...	...	6
MISCELLANEOUS HOUSING VISITS	...	...	...	...	259
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1,547</b>

## NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
<b>Informal :</b>			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	55	94	184
(b) Others ... ... ...	37	62	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Statutory :</b>			
(a) Sanitary Defects ...	21	28	102
(b) Others ... ... ...	3	11	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>110</b>

A total of 275 improvements to dwelling houses and other premises were effected during the year.

I am,  
 Ladies and Gentlemen,  
 Your obedient Servant,  
 F. E. SMALE,  
 Sanitary Inspector.







